

AOC Videos

CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND THE COURTS

The Center for Children and the Courts has several videotapes related to families and children in the court system that are available for the courts and the public. Copies of up to three of the following videos can be obtained by calling (415) 865-7739 or by sending an e-mail to childlaw@jud.ca.gov.

Beyond the Bench X, December 9–11, 1998, Los Angeles

- *Improving Dependency Courts, Promoting Adoptions and Permanency, and Implementing the Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997* (two videotapes; 145 min. total)

Two national experts, Joseph Kroll, Executive Director of the North American Council on Adoptable Children, and Mark Hardin, attorney for the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, examine the dependency court in depth, focusing on the impact of the Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997.

- *Coordinated and Unified Family Courts and Coordinating Courts Dealing with Families and Children* (two videotapes, 140 min. total)

Judge Robert Page, who presides over a model unified family court in New Jersey, talks about how family and juvenile courts can coordinate and unify and why they should. In the follow-up workshop, Judge Page is joined by Judge Steven Howell from Butte County and Ray Merz, Director of the Placer County Department of Social Services.

- *Naomi Haines Griffith: "Saving the World One Child at a Time"; Delaine Eastin: "Educating California's Children"* (118 min.)

Two outstanding keynote speeches from Beyond the Bench X. Naomi Haines Griffith is a social worker, consultant, and inspirational speaker from Nashville, Tennessee. Delaine Eastin is California's superintendent of public instruction.

1997 Child Advocacy Training Project

The following videotapes are from the March 1997 Child Advocacy Training (CAT) Project training in Santa Barbara.

- *Interviewing Children and Child Development* (78 min.)

Ian Russ, Ph.D., a psychologist from Los Angeles and one of the nation's best teachers on the clinical aspects of children in the legal system, discusses what advocates and others need to know about child development and effective interviewing of children.

- *Reasonable Efforts: A Judge's View* (45 min.)

Katharine English, a juvenile court referee from Portland, Oregon, talks about how effective legal advocacy changed her perspective as a judicial officer.

- *Child Advocacy Training: Videotape and Panel Discussion* (81 min.)

Katharine English is joined on a panel by Commissioner Patricia Bresee from San Mateo County, Judge William Gordon from Santa Bar-

bara County, and Lucia Tebbe, an attorney from Ventura County. A multipart video shows a child's case as it moves through the dependency and family court systems, focusing particularly on the role of attorneys for children. Panelists comment after each segment of the video.

- *Substance Abuse: Addiction and Treatment* (80 min.)

Kathleen West, one of California's leading experts on the impact of substance abuse, discusses its role in dependency cases and the interplay of treatment and the legal process.

Other Videotapes

- *Through the Eyes of the Child* (20 min.)

A moving videotape from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption shows the urgent need for dependency courts and child welfare systems to do a better job of getting children out of foster care and into stable, permanent homes.

- *The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997: How Judges Can Make It Happen* (23 min.)

From the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, this videotape continues the theme of promoting stability and permanence for children, particularly in the context of implementing the federal Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997. Different versions of this tape are available that are designed to appeal specifically to legislators (19 min.; also in an abridged 10-min. version), attorneys and child advocates (25 min.), and the general public (a 25-min. version and a 10-min. version).

- *Unrepresented Litigants (Pro Pers)*

Three videotapes (in English and Spanish) and accompanying brochures (English only) along with Web-based informational materials are available for courts and related organizations to

use in assisting parents and unrepresented litigants. The videos provide a general, simple overview of court processes and forms for cases involving marital dissolution and applications for restraining orders available under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. Copies of the videos and brochures are available from the Statewide Office of Family Court Services, 415-865-7741.

- *Domestic Violence*

A two-part videotape on domestic violence was produced in response to legislation requiring the Judicial Council to develop a training program for family court mediators.

Part I: Domestic Violence: The Crime That Tears Families Apart (22 min.) discusses ways in which domestic violence affects children.

Part II: Mediation: The Crucial Factor (55 min.) discusses domestic violence issues in the specific context of California law that currently mandates mediation of all custody and visitation disputes. The videotapes are available for loan or for sale.

Mediation

The AOC's Statewide Office of Family Court Services (FCS) also produces a variety of video and audio training tapes for family court services personnel in the courts. For more information, contact FCS at 415-396-9153.

- *Mediation*

A Spanish-language videotape, *¿Se Van a Divorciar de Nosotros Tambien?* (20 min.), produced by the Statewide Office of Family Court Services, prepares Spanish-speaking clients for mediation.

- *Child Custody Mediation: A Video for Parents*

A 28-minute videotape produced by the State-wide Office of Family Court Services prepares parents for child custody mediation. A pamphlet explaining the information contained in the videotape is available as a handout to parents.

- *Educational Videotape and Brochure for Parents*

The videotape “Focus on the Child’s Needs” and a brochure were distributed to all family courts for use in orienting parents to mandatory child custody mediation and in explaining custody terms, parenting plans, and selected court procedures.

Court Facilities

“Court Facilities,” an AOC-produced videotape (30 min.) of a tour of selected courthouses by the former Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Court Facilities, helps to improve understanding of the need for construction standards.

Court Management Training

Training programs for court managers offered at the AOC’s annual Mid-Level Management Conferences have been audiotaped. Topics range from “Recognizing Value Conflicts” to “Managing Personal and Organizational Change.”

In addition, the Human Resources Bureau and the Education Division maintain a lending library of training videotapes, such as Alameda County’s clerk training tapes and courses on managing multicultural organizations.

practice and procedure and designed for both new and experienced trial judges. A central library of audiotapes and videotapes is located at the CJER offices in San Francisco. Branch libraries are located in seven metropolitan areas. For more information, contact CJER at 415-356-6400.

The 27-member Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest and busiest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts serves as the staff agency to the council.

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Judicial Education

The Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) publishes a series of audiotapes and videotapes covering selected areas of judicial